(c) whether the targets are likely to be achieved, if not, the action proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) during 1996-97, total 4000 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) are targeted to be provided. The SSA-wise details are in the enclosed statement. (See below)

(b) Total 249 Village Public Telephones (VPTs) have been provided till 31.10.1996. Details are given in the enclosed Statement (See below)

(c) Yes, Sir. The targets are likely to be achieved.

Statement

Name of SSA	Target for 1996-97	Achievement since April, 96 to provide VPTs. (as on 31.10.96)
1. Ahmedabad	66	____
2. Amreli	70	____
3. Bharuch	300	4
4. Bhavnagar	137	—
5. Jamnagar	113	—
6. Junagadh	200	26
7. Panchmahal	475	—
8. Surat	300	43
9. Vadodara	479	18
10. Valsad	400	27
11. Banaskantha	400	64
12. Kheda	77	—
13. Kutch-Bhuj	300	21
14. Mehsana	143	—
15. Rajkot	93	15
16. Sabarkantha	392	31
17. Surendranagar	3	—
18. Union Territories	52	" —
TOTAL	4000	249

Allocation of Funds for Road Safety in Andhra Pradesh

607. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated for road safety in Andhra Pradesh for 1996-97;

(b) whether such funds have been released;

(c) whether it is a fact that specific requests have been made for release of funds and facilities for road safety in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government have called any meeting in this regard;?

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT {SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) There is no State-wise allocation of funds for road safety.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The Government have received representations requesting for setting up of rest area and for taking steps to enhance road safety in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Proposal to Establish a Fund for Development of National Highways

608. SHRI O. P. KOHLI:
SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to establish a fund for the development and upkeep of National Highways in the country, if so, the details thereof; and

(b) whether there is also a proposal to impose a tax on diesel and petrol prices to raise funds; if so, how much increase